



STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR14
RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT
AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII

REPRESENTATIVE DEE MORIKAWA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 17, 2015, 11:00am Room Number: 329

1 **Office Testimony:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the
2 Department of Health, is in support of this measure.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** NONE.

4 **Offered Amendments:** The resolution designates the month of May of each year as "Older
5 Americans Month" in Hawaii in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans
6 Act and of all the contributions made by older Americans in the State of Hawaii.

7 2015 marks the golden, 50th anniversary of three of our nation's most important programs for
8 older adults— Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. In 1965, Congress passed and
9 President Johnson signed into law, the Older Americans Act. The original legislation authorized
10 grants to states for community planning and social services, research and development projects,
11 and personnel training in the field of aging. It also established the Administration on Aging to
12 administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the federal focal point on matters
13 concerning older persons.

14 Today the OAA serves as the major vehicle for the Administration on Community Living to
15 deliver social and nutrition services to seniors and their caregivers. It authorizes a wide array of
16 service programs and supports through a national network of 56 State agencies on aging, 629

1 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native
2 Hawaiian organizations.

3 Programs operated under the Act allow older adults to live more independently, in their homes,
4 or in settings of their choice. For some, it has meant employment, for others opportunities to
5 volunteer. These programs are administered locally, where people understand better the needs of
6 local residents. In FFY 2014, 7,509 older adults and family caregivers were served in Hawaii.

7 As one example, funding for the Older Americans Act secures funding for nutrition through
8 congregate dining and home delivered meals. In FFY2014, 6,040 were provided meals in
9 Hawaii with the purpose to (1) reduce hunger and food insecurity; (2) promote socialization of
10 older individuals; and (3) promote the health and well-being of older individuals by assisting
11 such individuals to gain access to nutrition and other disease prevention and health promotion
12 services to delay the onset of adverse health conditions resulting from poor nutritional health or
13 sedentary behavior. The Act also puts in place strong protections against elder abuse by
14 increasing existing abuse screenings and prevention efforts and provides resources for disease
15 prevention, senior centers, and family caregiver support.

16 **Recommendation:** From nutrition to evidence-based prevention programs, the Older
17 Americans Act supports efforts to improve the lives of older Americans. Accordingly, we are in
18 support of passage of this resolution.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jo-An Goss	HARA	Support	YES

HCR14 and SCR4

To: House Committee on Human Services, Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair

Date: March 13, 2015

Re: HCR14, RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII.

Chair Morikawa and members of the committee:

My name is Jo-An Goss, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HCR14, Designating May 2015 as the 50th Anniversary of the "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH."

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) and our local affiliate, the Hawaiian Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) strongly support all of the programs in the "OLDER AMERICANS ACT."

We would like to particularly highlight and celebrate Medicare's 50th Anniversary beginning this year and culminating on July 30, 2015.

Medicare was signed into law in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. At that time only half of our seniors had health insurance, and this law then enabled many more retired workers to have guaranteed health coverage.

Medicare has been so successful that seniors benefit from health coverage unlike other age populations. According to ARA's August 2014 online newsletter, "the poverty rate has gone down by 75%" since this law was signed. It has enhanced our quality of life and allowed us a greater sense of security and comfort.

Additionally, Medicare has shown improvement and is expected to be solvent until 2026. ARA indicated that "the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported that overall national health expenditures grew at

an annual rate of 3.7 percent in 2012, marking the fourth consecutive year of low growth this year.” Even with an increased enrollment, Medicare’s spending showed a slight decrease in 2012, and this slowdown is projected to continue for the next 25 years.

We appreciate the Kupuna Caucus’ support of your bill to recognize of "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" in the month of May.

Mahalo for allowing for allowing me to testify in strong support of HCR14.

Jo-An Goss,
HSTA-Retired
HARA Legislative Committee
Kupuna Caucus
Nuuanu (House District 27 / Senate District 13



March 17, 2015

House Committee on Human Services
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair

Re: **HCR 14, RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND DESIGNATING MAY AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH" IN HAWAII**

Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

AARP is a membership organization of people fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii alone. AARP advocates for issues that matter to Hawaii families, including the high cost of long-term care; access to affordable, quality health care for all generations; providing the tools needed to save for retirement; and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to people over the age of fifty.

AARP Hawaii strongly supports HCR 14, recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the Older Americans Act and designating May as "Older Americans Month" in Hawaii.

Enacted in 1965, the Older Americans Act ("OAA") provides essential services to our most vulnerable older adults. Indeed, 1965 was a milestone year as it saw the not only the enactment of the OAA, but also the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. This fiftieth anniversary is a celebration of the great strides that have been taken to support and recognize the myriad accomplishments of older adults, and a reminder of all the work that still needs to be done.

Every state receives OAA funds according to a formula based on the state's share of the United States population ages 60 and over. The OAA targets services to older adults by helping them "age in place" in their homes and communities as health and function decline.¹

This national law has had important local impacts. As a result of the OAA, state and area offices were established. It has also established a nationwide "Aging Network" to assist older adults in meeting their physical, social, mental, health and other needs, and also to maintain their well-being and independence.² The local impact means actual funds coming in to Hawaii since the

¹ See The Older Americans Act, AARP Public Policy Institute, Wendy Fox-Grage and Kathleen Ujvari (the "AARP OAA Report"), page 1. http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/public_policy_institute/health/2014/the-older-americans-act-AARP-ppi-health.pdf

² See Hawaii State Plan on Aging, October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2015, Executive Office on Aging ("Hawaii State Plan"), page 3. <http://health.hawaii.gov/eoa/files/2013/07/Hawaii-State-Plan-On-Aging.pdf>

Administration on Aging awards OAA Title III, IV, and VII funds to the states.³ Many of these funds are, in turn, allocated to the Area Agencies on Aging. According to information from the Executive Office on Aging, 7,509 older adults and family caregivers were served in Hawaii thanks to OAA funds in the last fiscal year. Specifically, the OAA provided the following funding for Hawaii in fiscal year 2014⁴:

- Meals and Nutrition Services: \$3,631,796
- Supportive Services and Preventive Health: \$1,819,482
- National Family Caregiver Support Program: \$720,651

These OAA programs and funds help seniors live independently by supporting services including Meals-on-Wheels, in-home care, transportation, elder abuse prevention and caregivers who make it possible for seniors to live in their homes. It also helps save federal and state tax dollars by keeping seniors out of costly nursing homes and preventing unnecessary hospital re-admissions.

The importance of these programs is underscored by the fact that Hawaii's population is the oldest in the nation. As our population continues to age, these services will only grow in importance. In 1980, the population of Hawaii residents ages 60 and over was 115,000 (12% of the population). By 2010 that population had grown to 277,000 (21% of the population). By 2035 that number is projected to grow to over 474,400 or almost 30% of Hawaii's population.⁵ Over a thirty-year period (1980-2010), the older adult population has increased by approximately 139.8% while the total population increased by only 34.2%.⁶

It is important to remember that as these OAA programs are serving Hawaii's ever-growing population of older adults, Hawaii's older adults are *still serving* everyone else. "The knowledge of our older adults is strongly valued. In fact, Hawaii's older adults are more educated than older adults nationally, with 26% of Hawaii's older adults having a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 22.5% of older adults nationally."⁷ And this knowledge is being put to use in the community. 19.8% of Hawaii's adults over the age of 65 volunteered between 2008 and 2010.⁸

We thank Hawaii's older adults for all the contributions they have made and continue to make to our state. This resolution is a fitting way to honor them and we strongly support it.

³ See id.

⁴ See the AARP OAA Report, page 5.

⁵ See id., page 13.

⁶ See Id.

⁷ Executive Office on Aging, Profile of Successful Aging Among Hawaii's Older Adults, page 4.
http://www.hawaiiadrc.org/Portals/_AgencySite/2013Aging.pdf

⁸ See id.

kobayashi2-Lynda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 1:29 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jusbecuz@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR14 on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM

HR14

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: All government entities should be subject to oversight. I strongly support an audit to assess the family court performance on custody issues where family violence is alleged.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Aloha Representative Morikawa, chair, and members of the Human Services committee,

My name is Barbara Service and I live in the 19th Representative District and the 9th Senate District.

As a member of AARP, Kokua Council and HARA, I urge your strong support of HCR14, designating May as Older Americans Month in Hawaii and recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Older Americans Act.

Thanks to the efforts of President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Older Americans Act was enacted in 1965. Millions of older Americans have been provided services which have helped to keep them out of poverty. The Older Americans Act, which created the State and Area Agencies on Aging, is the primary vehicle for delivery of social and nutrition services to the elderly and their caregivers.

I urge your strong support of HCR14.

Mahalo!

Barbara J. Service

kobayashi2-Lynda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:39 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: jamesjtz@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR14 on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM

HCR14

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for HUS on Mar 17, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This resolution honors those gone before us!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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